

MATILDA THOMAS EVANS.

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Matilda A. Thomas Evans, daughter of Daniel S. and Martha P. Thomas, was born in Calloway County, Kentucky, Feb. 5, 1830. She was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when eight years of age. In her youth her parents moved into Missouri, and from there into Illinois.

She was in the expulsion from Nauvoo and in 1847 she, with her brother Isaac, crossed the plains in the first company of emigrants after the pioneers. They drove teams for John Van Cott in order to get an outfit to return for the rest of her father's family. They arrived in Salt Lake City on September 4, 1847. The next year, her brother returned, bringing out the family in 1849.

She was married to Israel Evans, January 1, 1849. After living in Salt Lake City for a short time they moved to Lehi, settling at Snow's Springs. Afterward they moved up on the creek into what was known as Evansville, and still later into Lehi proper.

In 1853 her husband was called upon a mission to England, He left her with two small children, remaining away between four and five years. During this time she passed through all the trials incident to opening up a new country, often going into the harvest field to glean wheat to provide for herself and children

She did much toward building her first little home within the fort wall. Her entire life was a busy one, identified with the people of Lehi. She was the mother of nine children: Mary Abigail (Mrs. Benjamin S. Lott), Elgiva (Mrs. D. J. Thurman), Martha, Israel, Matilda (Mrs. Thomas Skalley), Morgan, Rachel (Mrs. E. J. Campbell), Lydia (Mrs. O. A. Slade), and Henry.

She died March II, 1905, a firm believer in the gospel taught by the Prophet Joseph Smith, having heard it preached from his own lips in her youth. She was a patient and willing worker all her life, always ready to give help to those in need.

